

REMARKS

I. Formal Matters

Claims 1-24 and 28-32 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for initialing the information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on June 16, 2006, December 19, 2006 and January 23, 2007.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-24 and 28-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that there is no support in the specification for “the first composite magnetic layer...[being] *intermixed according to a composite ratio*,” as set forth in independent claims 1, 24 and 29. (See Office Action, page 2). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The above-claimed element is described throughout the specification. In one exemplary and non-limiting embodiment, a first composite magnetic layer is made up of a plurality of materials. The materials making up the composite magnetic layer of the above-mentioned exemplary embodiment are intermixed. That is, some amount of a first material is mixed together with another amount of a second material to form a composite layer. In this exemplary embodiment, the amount of the first material, when compared to the amount of the second material, constitutes a ratio of materials that, when added together, make up the total amount of material included in the composite layer. In other words, the intermixture of materials making up the composite magnetic layer is performed according to a ratio, e.g., 4% of material A and 96% of material B.

For example, “[i]n **the composite magnetic layer 6** ...the composition **ratio of the ferromagnetic material** CoFe and the **non-magnetic material** Ta in the amorphous phase is important.” (See Specification, page 46, ll. 20-24). More specifically, in one exemplary embodiment, the ratio of the non-magnetic material to the ferromagnetic material in the amorphous phase is in a range from 10% to 40%. (See Specification, page 47, ll. 9-13).

Additionally, in one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the thickness and size of the materials which make up the composite magnetic layer “can be controlled in accordance with a ratio of the non-magnetic material **mixed** in the ferromagnetic material used for the composite layer.” (See page 36, ll. 7-11).

Applicants respectfully note that the above exemplary embodiments are provided only for purposes of clarification and to further the Examiner’s understanding, and thus do not limit or narrow the scope of the claims in any way. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 1, 24 and 29 are supported in the specification.

With regard to claims 2-23 and 30, those claims depend from claim 1, and thus are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. They are also allowable because of the additional limitations recited therein.

With regard to claims 28 and 31, these claims depend from claim 24. With regard to claim 32, this claim depends from independent claim 29. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 28, 31 and 32 are allowable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies. They are also allowable because of the additional limitations recited therein.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

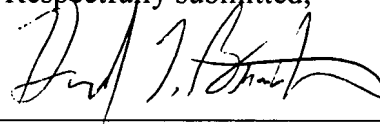
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